Studies on Water-Harvesting in Assam

98. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any studies on water harvesting and storage schemes in the State of Assam during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the number of such projects approved as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The Central Ground Water Board, under the Ministry of Water Resources had taken up studies on rain water harvesting and storage in st lected areas of Sonapur Block and Guwahati Area of Kamrup district of Assam under its Central Sector Scheme at an estimated cost of Rs. 63.50 lakhs. The scheme was sanctioned in August 2000. The scheme has 18 projects *viz.* roof top rain water harvesting (11 nos.) and spring water development (7 nos.) All the 11 roof top rain water harvesting projects and 5 spring water development projects have already been completed. The completed projects have shown increased availability of water for use.

Clearance of Irrigation Projects

99. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the important irrigation projects which were lying pending at the Central Government level for a long time have been cleared; if so, the details, name of the projects and the districts covered by these projects;

(b) whether budget provision has been made and funds have already been released; if so, what is the time frame to complete these projects; and

(c) whether the district of Jajpur is covered by Kanapur, Andapur and Rengali Irrigation Project, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The clearance of Irrigation projects depends upon the promptness with which State Government complies with the observations of Central appraising agencies. Details of irrigation projects given investment clearance by the Planning Commission since April, 2001 are given in the Statement enclosed (See below) Irrigation being the State subject, planning, funding, executing and operation and maintenance of irrigation projects are done by the State Governments themselves based on their own priorities.

(c)The Jajpur district of Orissa is benefited by Rengali Irrigation Project.